

V. REMARKS

Claims 4-12 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Loose et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,517,433) in view of Joeng (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0016313). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Loose reveals a spinning reel slot machine that includes a plurality of mechanical rotatable reels and a video display. The plurality of mechanical rotatable reels, in response to a wager, are rotated and stopped to randomly place symbols on the reels in visual association with a display area. The video display provides a video image overlaying the reels with the video image interacting with the symbols on the reels. The video display is a flat panel transmissive display, in the form of a liquid crystal display, positioned in front of the reels.

Joeng discloses a liquid crystal display module that includes a light guide plate and a mold frame. The light guide plate guides light emitted from a lamp unit to a display unit to display an image. The light guide plate has a catching jaw and a projection formed by cutting at least one corner of a first end portion receiving the light from the lamp unit. The projection extends outwardly from a sidewall of the catching jaw and has a thickness thinner than that of the catching jaw. The mold frame receives the light guide plate and the lamp unit. The mold frame has a catching boss and a recess. The catching boss is formed at a first position corresponding to the catching jaw on a bottom surface of the mold frame to engage with the catching jaw to fix the light guide plate in the mold frame. The recess is formed at a second position corresponding to the projection in a sidewall of the mold frame to receive the projection.

Claim 4, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a variable display device for variably displaying symbols and a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device. Claim 4 recites that the front display device includes a liquid crystal display panel through which the variable display device is able to be seen, a light guiding plate for guiding light emitted from a light source to the liquid crystal display panel, which is disposed between the variable display device and the

liquid crystal display panel, a panel frame, a base frame and a rear holder panel. Claim 4 recites that the panel frame has a panel frame peripheral portion and a panel frame front portion connected to and extending perpendicularly from the panel frame peripheral portion to form a panel frame receiving recess sized to receive the liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate thereby forming a panel frame unit such that the panel frame peripheral portion surrounds the liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate with the panel frame front portion defining a panel frame window.

Claim 4 further recites that the base frame has a base frame peripheral portion and a base frame front portion connected to and extending perpendicularly from the base frame peripheral portion to form a base frame receiving recess sized to receive the panel frame unit such that the base frame peripheral portion surrounds the panel frame peripheral portion and the base frame front portion forms a base frame window generally corresponding with the panel frame window and contacts the panel frame front portion in a facially opposing manner with the base frame attached in front of the gaming machine for supporting the liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate integrated by the panel frame. Additionally, claim 4 recites that the rear holder panel has at least one opening sized so that the variably displayed symbols can be seen therethrough and is fabricated from material for reflecting light from the light guiding plate towards the liquid crystal display panel. Furthermore, claim 4 recites that the rear holder panel has a rear holder front portion and a rear holder peripheral portion extending perpendicularly from and extending about the rear holder front portion and the rear holder panel sized to be slidably received by and retained in base frame receiving recess with the rear holder front portion in facial contact with the panel frame peripheral portion and the light guiding plate and with the rear holder peripheral portion facially opposing and surrounded by the base frame peripheral portion. Also, claim 4 recites that the base frame is attached in front of the gaming machine for supporting the panel frame unit and the rear holder panel.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 4 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully

submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest a rear holder panel that has a rear holder front portion and a rear holder peripheral portion extending perpendicularly from and extending about the rear holder front portion and is sized to be slidably received by and retained in base frame receiving recess with the rear holder front portion in facial contact with the panel frame peripheral portion and the light guiding plate and with the rear holder peripheral portion facially opposing and surrounded by the base frame peripheral portion. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 9, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a variable display device for variably displaying symbols and a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device. Claim 9 recites that the front display device includes a liquid crystal display panel through which the variable display device is able to be seen, a light guiding plate for guiding light emitted from a light source to the liquid crystal display panel, which is disposed between the variable display device and the liquid crystal display panel, a rear holder which is disposed between the variable display device and the light guiding plate, for reflecting the light emitted on the light guiding plate to the side of the liquid crystal display panel with the rear holder having one or more openings allowing the symbols variably displayed in the variable display device to be observed with the rear holder panel having a rear holder front portion and a rear holder peripheral portion extending perpendicularly from and extending about the rear holder front portion, an antistatic sheet covering the opening of the rear holder, a panel frame and a base frame. Claim 9 recites that the panel frame has a panel frame peripheral portion and a panel frame front portion connected to and extending perpendicularly from the panel frame peripheral portion to form a panel frame receiving recess sized to receive the liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate thereby forming a panel frame unit such that the panel frame peripheral portion surrounds the liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate with the panel frame

front portion defining a panel frame window. Claim 9 further recites that the base frame has a base frame peripheral portion and a base frame front portion connected to and extending perpendicularly from the base frame peripheral portion to form a base frame receiving recess sized to receive the panel frame unit such that the base frame peripheral portion surrounds the panel frame peripheral portion with the base frame front portion forms a base frame window generally corresponding with the panel frame window and contacts the panel frame front portion in a facially opposing manner and with the rear holder. Furthermore, claim 9 recites that the rear holder surrounds the anti-static sheet and is sized to be slidably received by and retained in base frame receiving recess with the rear holder front portion in facial contact with the panel frame peripheral portion and the light guiding plate and with the rear holder peripheral portion facially opposing and surrounded by the base frame peripheral portion.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 9 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest a rear holder that is sized to be slidably received by and retained in a base frame receiving recess with a rear holder front portion in facial contact with a panel frame peripheral portion and a light guiding plate and with a rear holder peripheral portion facially opposing and surrounded by the base frame peripheral portion. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 5-8 depend from claim 4 and include all of the features of claim 4. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 4 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 10-12 depend from claim 9 and include all of the features of claim 9. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 9 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Carl Schaukowitch
Reg. No. 29,211

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RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
1233 20th Street, N.W. Suite 501
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 955-3750
Fax: (202) 955-3751
Customer No. 23353

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